

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17617

LIMDIS

DEPT. PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR STOESSEL
IN TOKYO

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UR, XF

SUBJ: IZVESTIYA FLAYS U.S. DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON THE MIDDLE EAST
NOVEMBER 20 TAKES A SHARPER-THAN-USUAL APPROACH
TO OVERALL U.S. MOTIVATIONS AND IS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF
THE SINAI AND GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. THE BASIC
THRUST OF THE ARTICLE IS TO ATTACK ISRAEL FOR ITS
AGGRESSIVENESS AND ITS REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH THE PLO.
THE COMMENTATOR, VETERAN HARD-LINER V. KUDRYAVTSEV, DOES NOT
MENTION THE U.S., BUT HE REFERS NO FEWER THAN FOUR
TIMES TO ISRAEL'S "PATRONS" AND HE ASSERTS THAT
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ISRAEL'S PROVOCATIVE POSITIONS ARE STRENGTHENED

BY THE "UNITERRUPTED FLOW OF MODERN WEAPONS FROM
ACROSS THE OCEAN."

2. ISRAEL'S PATRONS, KUDRYAVTSEV CHARGES, HAVE NO
INTEREST IN THE ISRAELI PEOPLE AND STATE; THEY
SIMPLY WANT TO USE ISRAEL AS A TOOL OF THE OIL
MONOPOLIES AND THEY THEREFORE SUPPORT THE CONTINUING IN
POWER OF THE "WAR-MONGERING, AGGRESSIVE CLIQUE" IN
TEL AVIV.

3. KUDRYAVTSEV MAKES STANDARD REFERENCE TO THE
POTENTIAL USEFULNESS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS AS
A FIRST STEP. BUT HE ADDS THAT THE AGREEMENTS HAVE
BECOME PART OF THE "MANEUVERS" OF THE AGGRESSORS AND
THEIR PATRONS, WHO HAVE TWIN AIMS. FIRST, THEY WANT
TO BREAK UP ARAB UNITY. SECOND, THEY SEEK TO LIQUIDATE
THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT BY ISOLATING IT. BOTH AIMS,
HE SAYS, ARE DOOMED TO FAIL BECAUSE OF THE
ARAB UNITY DISPLAYED AT RABAT.

4. COMMENT: KUDRYAVTSEV'S HARSH WORDS ON THE DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT INDICATE THAT, AS THE ARAB POSITION HAS
BECOME MORE RADICALIZED AT RABAT AND AFTER, THE SOVIETS
ARE BECOMING EMBOLDENED, EVEN IN PUBLIC, TO
DENIGRATE MORE HARSHLY U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN THE ME.
WE WOULD EXPECT SIMILAR TOUGHNESS IN PRIVATE TALKS,
AND THE KUDRYAVTSEV PIECE IS PROBABLY PARTLY KEYED
TO VLADIVOSTOK. KUDRYAVTSEV TOLD AN EMBOFF LAST
WEEK THT HE IS ONE OF ARAFAT'S CONTACTS DURING THE
PLO LEADER'S VISITS TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE
CURRENT IZVESTIYA ARTICLE SOFTPEDALS DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN SOVIET AND PLO POSITIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN
CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, IT DOES NOT USE THE DATE
1967, NOR DOES IT REFER TO UN RESOLUTIONS ON THE ME.
HOWEVER, WE DO NOT SEE A HINT OF CHANGE IN MOSCOW'S
POSITION HERE, SINCE THE SOVIETS BOUGHT REFERENCES TO
1967 AND TO RESOLUTION 242 IN THE IRANIAN COMMUNIQUE.
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